GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1686
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
AFGHANISTAN ISSUE
IMAM SANADI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had written letters to the Heads of several countries suggesting a mechanism involving India to decide on Afghanistan`s future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) their response to the suggestion?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)-(b) Yes sir. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has written to several Heads of State/Government about India`s concerns and views regarding the future government structure in Afghanistan, and the need for appropriate framework for international consultation to promote this process. The letter was addressed to Heads of State/Government of Canada, China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Japan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uzbekistan.

In the letter, Prime Minister elaborated India`s stand that the future government in Afghanistan should be broad based, with equitable representation of different ethnic and religious groups; future political structure in Afghanistan should not be allowed to export terrorism or extremism; there was urgency in tackling these issues in an international framework including countries which have legitimate interest in, and influence on these matters and the importance of reconstruction and rehabilitation in post conflict Afghanistan and in this regard declared government`s intention of extending a line of credit of approximately US$100 million for post conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation work in Afghanistan.

(c) There has been widespread support in the international community to India`s viewpoint on the future government structure in Afghanistan and need to establish a broad based, multi-ethnic government in Afghanistan to address the evolving military-political and humanitarian situation in that country. The international community also concurs that the Afghan territory should not be used to radiate terrorism and extremism, as had been the case during the regime of the Taliban militia.